

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION**

Approved by the Regents
October 13, 2011


Item for Information

Subject: Henry Russel Lecturer for 2012

I am pleased to inform you that the Russel Awards Faculty Advisory Committee, chaired by Dean Janet A. Weiss, has selected Rebecca J. Scott, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, Charles Gibson Distinguished University Professor of History, Professor of History, and Professor of Law, as the Henry Russel Lecturer for 2012. The Russel Lecture will be delivered by Professor Scott on February 23, 2012.

The Henry Russel Lectureship is the highest honor that the University bestows upon a senior member of its faculty. A description of the contributions of this extraordinary faculty member is attached.

Respectfully submitted:



Mary Sue Coleman
President

October 2011

Attachment

Rebecca J. Scott

Professor Scott received her Ph.D. in history from Princeton University in 1982, after completing her M.Phil. at the London School of Economics and A.B. at Harvard University. She joined the faculty of the Department of History at the university in 1984. She is the Henry F. Thurnau Professor, Charles Gibson Distinguished University Professor of History (2003-present), Professor of History, and Professor of Law (2002-present). In addition, she was the Frederick Huetwell Professor of History (1995-2003). Professor Scott has served as chair of the Department of History and director of graduate studies, and has been a member of the department's executive committee and the Advisory Committee for Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

Professor Scott is one of the most distinguished Latin American historians in this country with remarkable influence in Brazil, Cuba, France, and Spain. She is widely recognized as one of the leaders of the thriving field encompassing the history of the Atlantic world. Professor Scott is best known for her ground-breaking publications on slavery, and on race and the law, in post-emancipation Cuba, Brazil, and the United States. Her reputation is that of a pioneering archival historian who examines the local and personal in order to effectively convey widespread social transformation. This can be seen in her books, among them: *Slave Emancipation in Cuba: The Transition to Free Labor, 1860-1899* (1985); *The Abolition of Slavery and the Aftermath of Emancipation in Brazil* (1988); *Beyond Slavery: Explorations of Race, Labor, and Citizenship in Post-emancipation Societies* (2005); *Degrees of Freedom: Louisiana and Cuba after Slavery* (2005). Over the course of her distinguished career Professor Scott has published significant articles in all the leading journals of the discipline, including *Past & Present*, *American Historical Review*, *Annales*, *Geneses*, and *Hispanic American Historical Review*.

Her remarkable accomplishments have been acknowledged throughout her career. For example, her most recent major work in 2005 was awarded four separate prizes. Professor Scott is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She recently received the Senior Fellowship at the National Humanities Center; past fellowships include those from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the MacArthur Prize, among other competitive awards. Her contributions to the university community have been recognized with the John H. D'Arms Faculty Award for Distinguished Graduate Mentoring in the Humanities (2011), the Arthur F. Thurnau Professorship (1994-present), and the Faculty Recognition Award (1989).